

Paper: Strategic gardening: mobilizing cultural aspects of gardening in sustainable development

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## Strategic gardening for sustainable development

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Gardening activities take place all over the globe. Gardening is an intimate interaction between society and environment, closely linking the social system with the ecosystem. This ecosystem can be any of the green spaces where gardening happens, ranging from strictly private domestic gardens over temporary reclaimed waiting spaces to public parks. In these green spaces, the present biophysical structures and processes could support a range of regulating and provisioning ecosystem services. Whether or not these ecosystem services will be effectively supported, depends on the management of these spaces through gardening. This gardening is influenced by a wide range of factors like gardening knowledge, norms, beliefs and aesthetic preferences. Many of these factors are in fact cultural ecosystem services. So, cultural ecosystems services related to gardening could influence the support of provisioning and regulating ecosystem services. Moreover, the cultural ecosystems themselves contribute to social sustainability. Questions that pop-up are: Can cultural ecosystem services be drivers for supporting regulating and provisioning ecosystem services through gardening? What is the role of cultural ecosystem services in supporting social sustainability? Can gardening activities boost the enhancement of sustainability? Answers on these questions can give handles to a variety of actors that aim at mobilizing gardening activities to enhance sustainability. This sets the scope for the session "Strategic gardening: Mobilizing cultural aspects of gardening in sustainable development".

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